
Appendix 5

Members of the Council of Fifty

1844-45

A. Ranking as of 27 June 1844 (at Joseph Smith's death).

*Indicates dropped by Brigham Young eventually.

Relevant background of appointees is listed chronologically. Ranking numbers (by age) are different from those listed in William Clayton's diary for 18 April 1844, because new initiations between then and June caused shifting in the age-ranking. Underlined ages here indicate Clayton misstated the age on 18 April. Also some members of the Fifty had birthdays between that date and the death of Joseph Smith.

1. *Joseph Smith, Jr.*, age 38; LDS church president; polygamist; formerly commanding general of Zion's Camp; unsuccessful candidate for coroner of Kirtland, Ohio; initiated Danite, but not one of the organization's leaders; nearly executed for treason against the state of Missouri, and escaped custody; Trustee-in-Trust for church finances; Lt. General of Nauvoo Legion; regent of Nauvoo's University; Freemason; president of the Anointed Quorum; voluntary bankrupt; City of Nauvoo's Mayor, Chief Justice of Municipal Court, registrar of deeds, and Board of Health member; second anointing as king and priest in heaven; applicant to be U.S. postmaster of Nauvoo; applicant to become commander of a special contingent of 100,000 men in U.S. army; candidate for U.S. president; standing chairman, Council of Fifty; theocratic King, Priest and Ruler over Israel on Earth; told Council of Fifty members that his unborn son David Hyrum Smith would be his successor; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; allegedly ordained Joseph Smith III as his successor, witnessed by other members of the Fifty; indicted for treason against the state of Illinois; instructed members of the Anointed Quorum to destroy their "garments"; disobeyed a divine revelation by returning to Nauvoo after Council of Fifty members accused him of cowardice for fleeing; instructed the Clerk of Kingdom to burn the minutes of the Council of Fifty; apparently burned the original manuscript revelation on polygamy; unsuccessfully ordered the Nauvoo Legion to attack Carthage, Illinois and free him from jail; assassinated and martyred 27 June 1844 at Carthage Jail.

2. *Samuel Bent*, age 65; Zion's Camp; formerly Missouri high council; former Danire; Nauvoo stake high council; Freemason; unsuccessful candidate for Nauvoo city council; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; political missionary to Michigan; in Michigan at martyrdom.

3. *John Smith*, age 62; uncle of Joseph Smith; Freemason; former counselor to First Presidency; former Danire; chairman of committee that directed Mormon exodus from Missouri; former stake president; treasurer pro-tem, Nauvoo Masonic lodge; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; stake patriarch; second anointing; near Nauvoo at martyrdom.

4. **Alpheus Cutler*, age 60; Nauvoo stake high council; Nauvoo temple committee; assistant aide-de-camp, Nauvoo Legion; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; allegedly a member of a seven-man committee within the Council of Fifty; allegedly witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; Hyrum Smith scratched Cutler's name from the list of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.
5. **Uriah Brown*, age 59; non-Mormon; judge; weapons inventor; chairman, "state" political convention which nominated Smith as presidential candidate (hereafter Nauvoo convention); in Rushville, Illinois at the martyrdom.
6. *Reynolds Cahoon*, age 54; former counselor to Bishop Newel K. Whitney; Kirtland supervisor of highways; former counselor to stake president John Smith; former Danite; former member of stake high council; assistant aide-de-camp, Nauvoo Legion; standing Committee of Investigation, Nauvoo Masonic lodge; Nauvoo Temple committee; voluntary bankrupt; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; allegedly witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; called President Joseph Smith a coward for fleeing Nauvoo; Hyrum Smith scratched Cahoon's name from the list of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.
7. **Ezra Thayer*, age 53; Zion's Camp; former high councilman; former Danite; political missionary to Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan
8. *William W. Phelps*, age 52; former Freemason and anti-Mason; former stake presidency counselor, postmaster, and Justice of the Peace; former victim of Missouri Danites; Nauvoo City Council (pro-tem); Nauvoo mayor's clerk; joined Masonic Lodge in Nauvoo; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; reinitiated as Freemason in Nauvoo Lodge; Smith's central campaign committee; Nauvoo convention delegate; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; allegedly witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.
9. *Amos Fielding*, age 51; Freemason; his sister was a polygamous wife of Hyrum Smith; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; proposed ambassador to England.
10. **William Marks*, age 51; Nauvoo alderman; Nauvoo stake president; regent of Nauvoo's university; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; polygamy opponent; second anointing; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.
11. **Sidney Rigdon*, age 51; first counselor in LDS First Presidency; liaison from the Presidency to Danites in Missouri; former postmaster and city councilman; regent of Nauvoo's university; Nauvoo city attorney; Free-mason; polygamy opponent, and knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to Rigdon's daughter; voluntary bankrupt; candidate for U.S. vice-presidency; Anointed Quorum; in Pennsylvania at martyrdom.
12. *John P. Greene*, age 50 ; brother-in-law of Brigham Young; former Danite; former city

councilman, high councilman, and mission president; regent of Nauvoo's university; Nauvoo city marshal; Freemason; voluntary bankrupt; Anointed Quorum; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

13. **George Miller*, age 49 ; brigadier-general, Nauvoo Legion; regent of Nauvoo's university; Grand Master of Nauvoo Masonic Lodge; regional bishop; Anointed Quorum; Nauvoo convention delegate; apparently appointed delegate to proposed national political convention (hereafter national delegate); in Kentucky at martyrdom.

14. *Newel K. Whitney*, age 49; Freemason; general bishop; Nauvoo alderman; regent of Nauvoo's university; treasurer of Nauvoo Masonic lodge; Anointed Quorum; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; second anointing; allegedly "poured the oil on his head," when Joseph Smith III was anointed and ordained as theocratic successor; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

15. **Peter Haws*, age 48; Nauvoo House committee; Freemason; Nauvoo convention delegate; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

16. **Lyman Wight*, age 48; Zion's Camp; former Danite; claimed he assisted in 1839 ordination of Joseph Smith III to be successor as LDS president; apostle; brevet-major general, Nauvoo Legion; Nauvoo House committee; former Nauvoo city councilman; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; Nauvoo convention delegate; national delegate; in New York state at martyrdom.

17. *Joseph Fielding*, age 47 ; former mission president; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; his sister was a polygamous wife of Hyrum Smith; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

18. *Cornelius P. Lott*, age 45; former Danite; Freemason; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; apparently in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

19. **Lucien Woodworth*, age 45; Nauvoo House architect; Freemason; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; Anointed Quorum; Council of Fifty's ambassador to Republic of Texas, during which time Joseph Smith told Woodworth's wife that his unborn son David Hyrum Smith would be his successor; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

20. *Levi Richards*, age 45 ; Nauvoo City Council; Freemason; Nauvoo convention delegate; his sister was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; Anointed Quorum; former Danite; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

21. *John M. Bernhisel*, age 45; physician; former bishop; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; Nauvoo convention delegate; member of Smith's central campaign committee; claimed that Joseph Smith said his unborn son David Hyrum Smith would be his successor; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

22. *John D. Parker*, age 44; Zion's Camp; lieutenant-colonel, Nauvoo Legion; Freemason; Grand Warden of Nauvoo Masonic lodge; Smith's bodyguard; deputy sheriff; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

23. *Hyrum Smith*, age 44; brother of Joseph Smith; Freemason; Zion's Camp; former counselor in First Presidency; former Danite; Presiding Patriarch; Nauvoo vice-mayor and city councilman; brevet-major general, Nauvoo Legion; regent of Nauvoo's university; senior warden pro-tem and standing Committee of Claims, Nauvoo Masonic lodge; Anointed Quorum; voluntary bankrupt; organized anti-polygamy "secret service," then became polygamist; second anointing; delegate to Democratic state convention 1844; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; allegedly anointed Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor to Joseph Smith; assassinated 27 June 1844.

24. *Brigham Young*, age 43; Zion's Camp; president, Quorum of Twelve Apostles; Nauvoo City Council; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; polygamist; his sister was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to Young's legal wife; second anointing; claimed that Joseph Smith said his unborn son David Hyrum would be Smith's successor; in Massachusetts at martyrdom.

25. *Heber C. Kimball*, age 43; Freemason; Zion's Camp; Apostle; Nauvoo City Council; regent of Nauvoo's university; junior deacon and standing Committee of Investigation, Nauvoo Masonic lodge; Anointed Quorum; polygamist; knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to Kimball's legal wife; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; second anointing; national delegate; in New York state at martyrdom.

26. *Orson Spencer*, age 42; former Justice of the Peace; Nauvoo alderman; chancellor of Nauvoo university; Anointed Quorum; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

27. **James Emmett*, age 41; former high councilman; former Danite; Nauvoo policeman; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

28. *Philip B. Lewis*, age 40; his wife was related to Edward Bonney; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

29. *Elias Smith*, age 39; first cousin of the Fifty's four other Smiths (Joseph, Hyrum, William, and George A.), and nephew of John Smith; member of committee that directed Mormon exodus from Missouri; former bishop; Nauvoo alderman; Freemason; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

30. *Orson Hyde*, age 39; Zion's Camp; Apostle; former opponent of Missouri Danites; Nauvoo City Council; Freemason; his legal wife was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; Council of Fifty's ambassador to Washington, D.C.; national delegate; in Massachusetts at martyrdom.

31. **Samuel James*, age 38; cousin of Sidney Rigdon; former high councilman; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

32. *Wilford Woodruff*, age 37; Zion's Camp; Apostle; former Nauvoo city councilman; Freemason; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; political missionary to Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan; national delegate; in Massachusetts at martyrdom.

33. *Parley P. Pratt*, age 37 ; Zion's Camp; Apostle; former Danite; Nauvoo city council pro-tem; Freemason; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; apparently national delegate; in New York state at martyrdom.

34. **Edward Bonney*, age 36; non-Mormon; related to wife of Philip B. Lewis; counterfeiting associate of Marinus G. Eaton; aide-de-camp, Nauvoo Legion; Freemason; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

35. *David D. Yearsley*, age 36; Freemason; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; president of political missionaries to Pennsylvania; apparently national delegate; in Pennsylvania at martyrdom.

36. **David S. Hollister*, age 36; school trustee; Freemason; national delegate; in Maryland at martyrdom.

37. *John Taylor*, age 35; Apostle; colonel, Nauvoo Legion; Nauvoo City Council; regent of Nauvoo's university; Freemason; polygamist; knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to Taylor's legal wife; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; Nauvoo convention delegate; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; allegedly witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; severely wounded 27 June 1844 at Carthage Jail.

38. **Alexander Badlam*, age 35; Zion's Camp; Seventy; Freemason; apparently in or near Nauvoo at martyrdom.

39. *Charles C. Rich*, age 34; Zion's Camp; former Danite; brigadier-general, Nauvoo Legion; regent of Nauvoo's university and school warden; former city councilman; Freemason; stake presidency; Nauvoo police officer; president of political missionaries to Michigan; in Michigan at martyrdom.

40. **George J. Adams*, age 33; Freemason; Nauvoo City Council pro-tem; polygamist; Council of Fifty's proposed ambassador to Russia; apostle (not in Quorum of Twelve); claimed he witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

41. **William Smith*, age 33; brother of Joseph Smith; Zion's Camp; Apostle; major, Nauvoo Legion; an accomplice in John C. Bennett's free-love arrangements; Freemason; former city councilman and state legislator; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; Nauvoo convention delegate; political missionary to Eastern States, and apparently an intended national delegate; in Massachusetts at martyrdom.

42. *Orson Pratt*, age 32 ; Zion's Camp; Apostle; Nauvoo City Council; Freemason; knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to Pratt's legal wife; temporarily excommunicated; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; national delegate; in Massachusetts at martyrdom.

43. **Marinus G. Eaton*, age 32; non-Mormon; aide-de-camp, Nauvoo Legion; counterfeiting associate of Edward Bonney; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

44. *Almon W. Babbitt*, age 31; Zion's Camp; former stake president; Justice of the Peace; Ramus Branch President; Anointed Quorum; Council of Fifty's proposed ambassador to France; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

45. *Amasa M. Lyman*, age 31 ; Zion's Camp; former Danite; Freemason; special counselor to First Presidency and apostle (not in Quorum of Twelve); Anointed Quorum; president of political missionaries to Indiana; apparently a national delegate; in Ohio at martyrdom.

46. **Joseph W. Coolidge*, age 30; former Danite; Freemason; polygamist; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

47. *Orrin Porter Rockwell*, age 29; former Danite; bodyguard to Smith; Freemason; allegedly attempted to assassinate ex-governor Lilburn W. Boggs in Missouri; polygamist; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

48. *Jedediah M. Grant*, age 28; Zion's Camp; Philadelphia Branch President; Freemason; apparently knew that Joseph Smith had proposed polygamous marriage to his sister; appointed a political missionary to Philadelphia, but in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

49. *George A. Smith*, age 27; first cousin of Joseph Smith; Zion's Camp; former Danite; Apostle; major, Nauvoo Legion; former city councilman; Freemason; had personal knowledge of a child born to a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; Nauvoo alderman; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; political missionary to Michigan; apparently a national delegate; in Michigan at martyrdom.

50. *Benjamin F. Johnson*, age 25 ; former Danite; Freemason; his sisters were polygamous wives of Joseph Smith; polygamist; near Nauvoo at martyrdom. (Although some authors accept Johnson's claim to be the youngest member of the Fifty, Johnson was three months older than Snow and a year older than Wasson.)

51. *Erastus Snow*, age 25; former high councilman; Freemason; polygamist; political missionary to Vermont; apparently a national delegate; in Vermont at martyrdom.

52. **Lorenzo D. Wasson*, age 24; Emma Smith's nephew; Freemason; called Joseph Smith a coward for fleeing Nauvoo; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

Willard Richards, age 40; Recorder of Kingdom, Council of Fifty [un-ranked by age]; Smith's fourth-cousin; Apostle; major, Nauvoo Legion; former city councilman; Freemason; his sister was a polygamous wife of Joseph Smith; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; second anointing; member of Smith's central campaign committee; Nauvoo convention delegate; allegedly witnessed the ordination of Joseph Smith III as theocratic successor; slightly wounded 27 June 1844 at Carthage Jail.

William Clayton, age 29; Clerk of Kingdom, Council of Fifty [unranked by age]; former mission presidency and high council; Nauvoo City Treasurer; Freemason; secretary to LDS president; polygamist; Anointed Quorum; in Nauvoo at martyrdom.

B. Ranking as of 27 June 1845 (one year after Joseph Smith's death).

*Indicates appointed by Joseph Smith, but dropped by Brigham Young after this date.

**Indicates appointed by Brigham Young.

***Indicates appointed and dropped by Brigham Young.

Relevant background of new appointees is listed chronologically.

1. *Brigham Young*, standing chairman.

2. *Samuel Bent*

3. *John Smith*

4. **Alpheus Cutler*

5. ***Isaac Morley*, age 59; Freemason; formerly a counselor to Bishop Edward Partridge; former Danite; patriarch; ward bishop; Joseph Smith had unsuccessfully proposed to his daughter; Anointed Quorum; justice of the peace; second anointing; polygamist; counselor in stake presidency.

6. ***Shadrach Roundy*, age 56; formerly a counselor to Bishop Vinson Knight; member of committee that directed Mormon exodus from Missouri; Freemason; Nauvoo police officer.

7. *Reynolds Cahoon*

8. **Ezra Thayre*

9. *William W. Phelps*

10. *Amos Fielding*

11. ***Daniel Spencer*, age 50; Nauvoo city council; regent of Nauvoo's university; volunteer for

the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; appointed a political missionary to Massachusetts, but stayed in Nauvoo; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; Nauvoo alderman.

12. **George Miller*

13. **John W. Farnham*, age 50.

14. *Newel K. Whitney*

15. **Peter Haws*

16. *Joseph Fielding*

17. ****Joseph Young**, age 47; Brigham Young's brother; Zion's Camp; Freemason; pro-tem member of Nauvoo city council; his sister was a polygamous widow of Joseph Smith; Anointed Quorum.

18. *Cornelius P. Lott*

19. ****Phineas H. Young**, age 45; Brigham Young's brother; chosen in 1835 to be an apostle but passed over when William Smith was ordained instead; former Danite; Freemason; his sister was a polygamous widow of Joseph Smith; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; political missionary to Ohio.

20. *****John E. Page**, age 46; Apostle; Freemason; polygamist.

21. **Lucien Woodworth*

22. *Levi Richards*

23. *John M. Bernhisel*

24. *John D. Parker*

25. ****Jonathan Dunham**, age 45; former Danite; Freemason; Major-General, Nauvoo Legion; Nauvoo wharfmaster; captain of Nauvoo police; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; participated in the physical destruction of the *Nauvoo Expositor* press; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; refused to obey Joseph Smith's order for the Nauvoo Legion to attack Carthage Jail and rescue him on the afternoon of 27 June 1844; president of local seventy's quorum.

26. ****Theodore Turley**, age 45; former high councilman; member of committee that directed Mormon exodus from Missouri; Freemason; polygamist; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Brigham Young; school trustee; Nauvoo Legion lieutenant-colonel and "armorer general"; counterfeiting associate of John M. Bernhisel.

27. *Heber C. Kimball*

28. *Orson Spencer*

29. ***David Fullmer*, age 41; Nauvoo high council; his sister was a polygamous widow of Joseph Smith; Freemason; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; political missionary; trustee of Town of Nauvoo.

30. ***Cyrus Daniels*, age 41; former Danire; Freemason.

31. *Philip B. Lewis*

32. *Elias Smith*

33. ****Lewis Dana*, age 40; native American of Oneida tribe; Freemason.

34. *Orson Hyde*

35. ***Albert P. Rockwood*, age 40; former Danire; captain of Smith's "lifeguards"; Freemason; Nauvoo city "Night Watch"; unsuccessful candidate for Nauvoo city council; one of Smith's intended defense witnesses; president of local seventy's quorum; his daughter was a polygamous wife of Brigham Young.

36. ***Charles Shumway*, age 40; Freemason; bodyguard of Joseph Smith; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; president of a local seventy's quorum.

37. ****Lucien R. Foster*, age 38; former branch president; Freemason; Nauvoo convention delegate; only non-member of the Fifty on Smith's central campaign committee; clerk of high priests quorum.

38. *Wilford Woodruff*

39. *Parley P. Pratt*

40. ***John S. Fullmer*, age 37; Freemason; former secretary to Smith; his sister was a polygamous widow of Joseph Smith; Freemason; polygamist; volunteer for the postponed "Oregon and California Exploring Expedition"; appointed a political missionary to Pennsylvania, but stayed in Nauvoo and smuggled a pistol to the Smiths at Carthage Jail.

41. *David D. Yearsley*

42. **David S. Hollister*

43. *John Taylor*

44. ***John Pack*, age 36; Freemason; Nauvoo policeman; political missionary to New Jersey; president of local seventy's quorum; Nauvoo city council.

45. *Charles C. Rich*

46. **William Smith*

47. *Orson Pratt*

48. ***John D. Lee*, age 32; former Danite; Freemason; Nauvoo policeman; polygamist; political missionary to Kentucky.

49. *Almon W. Babbitt*

50. ***Albert Carrington*, age 32; Dartmouth College graduate and Phi Beta Kappa; Freemason.

51. *Amasa M. Lyman*

52. **Joseph W. Coolidge*

53. *Orrin Porter Rockwell*

54. *Jedediah M. Grant*

55. *George A. Smith*

56. *Benjamin F. Johnson*

57. *Erastus Snow*

Willard Richards, Recorder of the Kingdom.

William Clayton, Clerk of the Kingdom.